

tgers Focus

A touch of silver for Livingston

The college's 25th anniversary will be marked at convocation and through special events during the coming year.



By Pam Orel

Livingston College, founded in 1969 as a college committed to diversity and educational innovation, will mark 25 years of service to New Jersey and the world this year.

The 927-acre campus — now home to about 3,400 students — will mark the milestone at this year's convocation, where an honorary doctorate will be bestowed on a prominent historian of the African-American community. This is the first presentation of an honorary degree at a Livingston convocation ceremony, according to Acting Dean Arnold Hyndman.

August Meier, a prolific author and university professor of history at Kent State University, will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree. The award will be presented by President Francis L. Lawrence on Thursday, May 19, at 2 p.m., at the Louis Brown Athletic Center on the Livingston campus.

Morton Dean, award-winning ABC Network News correspondent, will give the keynote address. Dean has covered a range of international stories, from the ravages of famine and war in Somalia to historic summit conferences.

The 25th anniversary will also be marked by a series of public lectures in

the coming academic year. The program, "Urban Futures," will explore the history of urban communities, as well as contemporary issues like housing policy and economic development that continue to challenge American cities.

Meier is the author or editor of several books, including "From Plantation to Ghetto," "Black History and the Historical Profession, 1915-1980," and "Essays and Reflections: Negro Thought in America, 1880-1915."

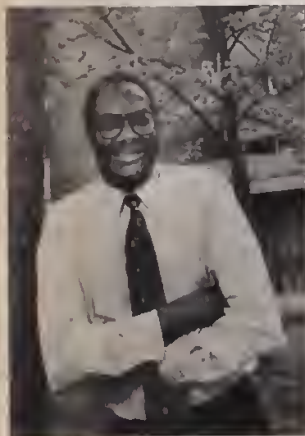
He is the recipient of several honors, including a 1976-77 fellowship from the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences and the Philip Taft Labor History Award, presented in 1979.

Meier is also a former president and vice president of the Southern Historical Association.

Livingston College — the first college to open since Douglass College began in 1918 — was named in honor of William Livingston, New Jersey's first governor and a man noted for his liberalism and involvement with social issues. The college that opened in 1969 was smaller than this year's graduating class.

Leroy Haines, now assistant dean and

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Leroy Haines, assistant dean and director of residence life at Livingston College, next to the tree he planted as a student during "Earth Day" in 1970. Haines was among the first group of students to enter the new college.

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— Acting Dean Arnold Hyndman

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COLLEGE AV CAMPUS



Sound session: In 1975, Livingston College students (from left) Gary Warren and Anthony Sloan discussed audio taping with original faculty member Jerome Aumente, who is now director of the Journalism Resources Institute at SCILS on the College Avenue campus.

Livingston's 25th

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director of residence life at Livingston College, was among the first group of about 700 students to enter the new college. "It was an interesting atmosphere, considering what was going on in the rest of the country," he said. "It was a very carefree atmosphere. Everyone was really into the unique spirit of the college."

From its founding, Livingston College was committed to diversity and outreach to urban, minority students who had potential but lacked critical skills — who often felt slighted in the traditional academic settings of the late 1960s.

The college also was willing to experiment with new ideas, programs and curricula, such as independent study, student-designed majors, and field experience and internships — concepts that are now considered "traditional." Livingston College also pioneered such majors as Africana studies, communications, computer science, business and urban studies.

The college was no stranger to the turbulence that rocked America at the time of its founding. The first students, faculty and staff faced formidable challenges — and met them in a unique way.

For example, Earth Day was marked in April 1970, with a "plant-in" of shrubs, grass and trees on the grounds of what today is the Quads complex. "Everyone worked together," remembered Haines, who took part in the "plant-in." "Today, I can look at a certain tree and remember that I planted it."

Livingston College has overcome its early obstacles: limited resources, the turmoil of the times and walkways between buildings that were not finished when the college opened. Hyndman said the college still has elements of the unique spirit that began a quarter-century ago.

"There is a Livingston College spirit," Hyndman said. "There's a concern for in-

dividuals and social issues. And Livingston's great strength is still the dedication of its faculty, staff and students."

The college's non-traditional mission has endured where other, similar schools failed because the college is an integral part of the larger university system, Hyndman noted.

"We continue to be a college committed to innovation," Hyndman said. "The fact that the college was anchored within Rutgers University played a major role in its evolution. Livingston College is more than just an interesting experiment from the late 1960s. We are a vital learning community producing students who are scholars and leaders."



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Last minute preparations: Workmen unload mattresses at the first campus quadrangle on Sept. 5, 1969 as (from left) Assistant Dean Phillip Garcia and Dean Ernest A. Lynton discuss plans for the college opening with two students, Judy Brynes and Timothy Harris.